



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - Dave Hacker

Treasurer - Robert Shepherd

V. Pres. - John Gettinger

Secretary - Dale Brier

November 18, 2015 1:00 pm

Morton Community Center

222 N. Chauncey Ave., West Lafayette, IN

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Allen County – Ron Zartman
Carroll County – George Mears
Cass County – Arin Shaver
Fountain County – Bob Shepherd
Gibson County – Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County – Rama Sobhani
Miami County – Ken Einselen
Parke County – Penny Cox
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County – John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Vigo County – Kara Kish
Wabash County – Mike Beauchamp
Warren County – Steve Eberly
DNR – Dale Brier (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Bill Smith – INDOT

Guests:

Dick Beamer – Wabash Co. alternate
Mercedes Brugh – Little Turtle Waterway
Phil Cox – Parke Co. alternate
John Dennis – West Lafayette Mayor
Janet Fawley – West Lafayette Parks
Stan Lambert – Wabash River Enhance. Corp
Dan McCain – Delphi Canal Trails
Don Mathis – Huntington Co. alternate
Bill Miller – Americus Area Community
Kay Miller – Americus Area Community
Allen Nail – Tippecanoe County Parks
Larry Rosequest – Trees Lafayette
Greg Shaner – Trees Lafayette
Liz Solberg – League of Women Voters
Tom VanSickle – Carroll Co. alternate

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County – Ryan Noblitt
Jay County – Doug Inman
Wells County – Scott Elzey

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves. Mayor Dennis thanked the commission for coming to West Lafayette. There were no proxies. The topics of funding and 2016 meeting locations were added to the agenda under new business.

Review and Approval of July 8, 2015 Minutes

Jim Andrew moved to approve the minutes as written, Ken Einselen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

- Kay Miller gave the group an update on the Americus quarry project. The project is currently in state appeals court to determine if the county commission has the authority to not allow the quarry project. Tippecanoe County rejected the project and company is appealing that decision.
- Stan Lambert updated the WRHCC on the progress of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) in the Lafayette and surrounding areas. They are working on a route through downtown Lafayette, West Lafayette and the Purdue campus incorporating complete streets design. It should be done by 2018. The extended trail will go through 4 counties. Lambert highlighted some of the specific projects in the cities along this corridor.
- Allen Nail gave a brief update on land the County Parks system was acquiring and that there was a possibility for a public river camping opportunity. The majority of funding is coming from grants and it will be nearly 600 acres of new land for the county parks.

Finance Report

Dale Brier had a handout of the financial report through October 31 (see attached). Ken Einselen moved to accept the report, Jim Andrew seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Budget – Bob Shepherd had a handout with the newest budget. The revenue in the near future may not be as strong as it has been in the past. As the price of crude oil goes down, so does the oil and gas royalty revenue. So far, the revenue has not shown a decrease, but it remains a possibility.

Grants – There will not be a grant round in 2016, the topic will be discussed next year for a possible 2017 grant round. The grant criteria are complete. Although grants had been done on a two year schedule, there is no rule setting the dates. The next round will be done when funds are adequate.

Executive – Dave Hacker said the Executive committee was discussing the idea of having river float tours in all 19 counties to raise awareness of the river and riparian issues of the Wabash River. The goal would be to get community leaders and elected officials out on the river. It would be a long term project, not all 19 counties would host an event in a single year. WRHCC Sponsorship funds could be used. This can be further discussed at the spring retreat in 2016.

Hacker also wants to continue looking for river camping opportunities along the Wabash River and the first place to start looking is at existing public land such as local and state park property. Brier gave Hacker a map of all known public land along the Wabash River. Other groups such as ACRES and NICHES might have land where potential camping sites could be located. The Healthy Rivers Initiative was also mentioned as source of land for camping, but Brier didn't know if that was an allowed use of land purchased within that program.

Policy and Procedure – Shepherd read the second draft of the sponsorship policy document that had been emailed to all WRHCC members. Having received no input, he

wanted input on a couple of items. After discussion about types of not-for-profits who could ask for sponsorship funds and how long they had to submit invoices, it was decided that sponsorship requests could come from any not-for profit (not limited to just 501(c)3) or governmental agency (no WRHCC member requirement) and they would have six months from the time of final approval to submit an invoice for the sponsorship. The commission also discussed local vs. statewide projects and how those sponsorships are handled. The topic of sponsorship for events that do not happen was brought up. It was agreed that the WRHCC would not ask for the money back. Groups use that money for other uses related to the project or future events. Ron Zartman motioned to approve the amended sponsorship policy and Jim Andrew seconded. Motion passed. Shepherd will send out a final version soon.

Banks of the Wabash (BOW) – Ken Einselen reported that BOW had met earlier in the day. They are looking for board members and officers. Einselen confirmed that Bernie Dahl is still the president until April 2016 when his term ends. They are currently looking for a Treasurer; Bob Shepherd (the former Treasurer) is fulfilling those duties until a new person can be found. Mike Beauchamp asked how much money the BOW had that was dedicated to Wabash Commission projects. Shepherd reported it is \$12,689.66.

Old Business

2016 Appointments – Brier reminded the members that all existing terms expire at the end of the year and new appointments need to be made before the January meeting. So far three counties have new appointments complete; Jay, Miami and Vigo.

Strategic planning action item updates – Kara Kish will send the newest version of the strategic plan to Brier so it can be distributed electronically with the January meeting announcement. Kish went over the tasks that have been completed, getting county road route approvals and finalizing route sign standards. Einselen and Bill Smith have been working on river road sign placement and had maps available to look at after the meeting. Smith still needs to talk to a couple of counties about signs and route issues. There are over 525 sign placement locations along the route and we will need over 1000 signs. By using standard placement guidelines, the counties will not need to submit sign placement plans. WRHCC members should be ready to approve the sign placement at the January meeting. This means they need to check with their counties and cities and show them the plans that Smith and Einselen have prepared. Brier reminded everyone that the route will need some kind of recognition from Tourism or INDOT in order for the public to know about the route and what the signs signify. Without some type of recognition, funds will not be spent on signs or the project. Hacker brought up that signs may need changes or updates depending how the route is designated and it is better to get that sorted out now rather than after signs are printed.

New Business

New funding requests – none

Grant project updates – Dan McCain gave a final report on the historic bridge grant project in Delphi. They used the state grant funds to match federal funds in order to complete the bridge restoration.

Retreat planning – Dave Hacker, went over some ideas for the format of the retreat at Turkey Run State Park. Hacker said the Abnets would give a presentation about their Wabash River float trip on Tuesday evening of the retreat. He asked for topics of discussion for the retreat. The retreat will be on March 1 and 2, a week earlier than our normal meeting. The WRHCC will meet Tuesday afternoon for some planning work, meet again Wednesday morning for more work, and then have a regular meeting at 1:00 pm on Wednesday afternoon.

2016 Officer Elections – Rama Sobhani and Kara Kish volunteered to serve as the nominating committee. The officer elections will be held at the January meeting.

Funds – Hacker brought up Banks of the Wabash (BOW) funds that are dedicated for WRHCC projects and the possibility of requesting that BOW transfer those funds to another not-for-profit organization. BOW is not as strong of an organization as it once was and it could be better for the WRHCC if another organization controlled the \$12,600. Hacker looked into a few other not-for-profit groups including the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation and Historic Forks of the Wabash. The Wabash County Community Foundation was mentioned as an option by Mike Beauchamp. Einselen gave the history of how these funds were originally obtained and how they ended up with BOW. When the funds were raised as a result of an art fair, the leftover proceeds were given to BOW to be earmarked for WRHCC projects. At the time, WRHCC did not have a non-reverting fund; if the funds had gone back into the state account they would have reverted and been lost at the end of the fiscal year. There was a lot of discussion of what would happen if the money came back to the state fund; all normal state rules would then apply to the funds. After discussion about the future of BOW, Ralph Weinzapfel motioned to request the money be moved from BOW to a new not-for-profit organization determined by the executive committee. Larry Southard seconded. Sobhani stated that the WRHCC may need to know more about the organizations before we vote to move the money. Hacker said the WREC wasn't ready to take on the responsibility and wanted to discuss it. They wished to be a backup organization if needed. The Historic Forks of the Wabash was ready to control and manage the funds right now; all they asked is that the WRHCC become members of their organization at \$50 a year. Motion passed. Hacker will discuss the issue with the groups and report back in January.

2016 meeting locations – Brier asked for volunteers to host meetings in 2016. The January meeting will be held in Indianapolis, the March meeting and retreat will be at Turkey Run State Park. Jim Andrew volunteered to host the November meeting in Tippecanoe County, probably at the Big 4 Depot. Brier asked that anyone wanting to host the May, July or September please bring those ideas to the January meeting.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Upcoming committee meetings – The nominating committee made up of Sobhani and Kish will meet soon to discuss a platform for the officer elections in January. Hacker will get in touch with individuals about items for the retreat.

Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates for next year, etc.
Zartman announced that Sol Fest will be April 30th and May 1 in Fort Wayne.

Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Larry Southard asked for a new commission member list. Brier will bring a new listing to the January meeting.

Please get your travel vouchers to Brier before the end of the meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm, motion passed.

Next Meeting:

January 13, 2016 1:00 pm
The Garrison - Lawrence Room
6002 N Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46216

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY16 as of 10/31/2015

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 48,842.28
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 3,486.53	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 250.44	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em CONtr	\$ 104.58	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 390.51	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 314.00	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 51.90	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 5.21	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$ 18.75	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 2.33	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 0.54	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 61.02	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 20.80	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 29.21	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 72.95	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 35.74	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 2,131.84	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 415.35	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 337.43	
595170	InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$ -	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 2,000.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 261.26	
759910	Dedicated Indirect	\$ -	

Total FY16 Expense To Date: \$ 9,990.39

Fund Balance:			
	6/30/2015	\$	283,113
FY16 revenues		\$	48,842
FY16 Expenses		\$	9,990
FY16 Encumbrances		\$	250,000
balance as of 10/31/2015		\$	71,965

DNR payroll	\$	4,735.82
travel costs	\$	2,993.31
sponsorships	\$	2,000.00
operating	\$	261.26
Total	\$	9,990.39